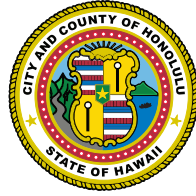


CITY COUNCIL



**Barbara Marshall, Chair • Todd K. Apo, Vice Chair • Nestor R. Garcia, Floor Leader
Romy M. Cachola, Member; Charles K. Djou, Member; Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Member
Ann H. Kobayashi, Member; Gary H. Okino, Member; Rod Tam, Member**

POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

The 1973 Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu expressly establishes the legislative branch as coordinate with the executive branch of city government and vests the legislative power in the city council.

As the legislative body of the city, the council performs the following major duties and functions:

- Sets city-wide policies by enacting ordinances and adopting resolutions relating to municipal government programs and services, such as police and fire protection, parks and recreation, affordable and special needs housing, sanitation and waste disposal, public transportation, and other city government operations;
- Initiates new municipal programs that the city may pursue or improvements to existing programs and services;
- Adopts the annual operating and capital programs and budgets to fund the operations of the city and the delivery of city services;
- Initiates amendments to the city charter;
- Adopts measures that will yield sufficient moneys to balance the budget, including the setting of the annual real property tax rates and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds;
- Adopts a general plan for the city and land use laws affecting the city's development plans and zoning regulations and processes;
- Establishes policies for development in or near the shoreline by reviewing and granting applications for special management area use permits and shoreline setback variances upon recommendation of the department of planning and permitting;
- Makes requests to the city auditor to conduct performance audits of city agencies and programs to determine whether laws, policies, and programs are being carried out in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner;
- Determines the necessity for taking property for public purposes and authorizes proceedings in eminent domain;
- Confirms city department heads and board and commission member nominated by the mayor, appoints members of certain commissions;
- Fixes fees and charges for city services and the use of city property or delegates that authority to the city executive branch;
- Settles claims filed against the city and its officers and employees;
- Approves the compromise of real property tax claims in excess of \$500 upon recommendation of the director of budget and fiscal services;
- Approves the abandonment or closing of city streets and roads upon recommendation of the city administration;
- Establishes fines and penalties for violations of city ordinances;
- Accepts, on behalf of the city, gifts of money, securities, other personal property, or real estate or interests in real estate;
- Authorizes agreements between the city and other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies which place obligations on the city; and
- Approves the appointment of special counsel for the city upon the recommendation of the corporation counsel.

ORGANIZATION

For fiscal year 2007-08, the council exercised its legislative policy making and oversight powers through the work of eight standing committees. The standing committees served as open forums of discussion, debate and consensus. They actively sought citizen participation in the legislative process by conducting meetings during which individuals as well as representatives of neighborhood boards, small businesses, interested organizations and affected industries were encouraged to share their opinions and ideas on city government programs and activities. The number and diversity of

public testimony received by the standing committees often formed the bases for recommendations for council action. In addition to the regularly scheduled committee meetings, the standing committees also held informational briefings to focus on complex issues and study new initiatives for city programs and services.

At the end of fiscal year 2007-08, officers and members of the council and voting members¹ of its eight standing committees were the following:

COUNCIL

Barbara Marshall, Chair

Todd K. Apo, Vice Chair

Nestor R. Garcia, Floor Leader

Romy M. Cachola, Member

Charles K. Djou, Member

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Member

Ann H. Kobayashi, Member

Gary H. Okino, Member

Rod Tam, Member

Committee on Affordable Housing and Economic Development

Chair: Romy M. Cachola

Vice Chair: Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Members: Todd K. Apo, Charles K. Djou, Ann H. Kobayashi

Committee on Budget

Chair: Todd K. Apo

Vice Chair: Gary H. Okino

Members: Nestor R. Garcia, Ann H. Kobayashi, Rod Tam

Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs

Chair: Ann H. Kobayashi

Vice Chair: Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Members: Todd K. Apo, Romy M. Cachola, Charles K. Djou, Nestor R. Garcia, Barbara Marshall, Gary H. Okino, Rod Tam

Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Chair: Charles K. Djou

Vice Chair: Rod Tam

Members: Romy M. Cachola, Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Ann H. Kobayashi

Committee on Public Health, Safety & Welfare

Chair: Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Vice Chair: Ann H. Kobayashi

Members: Romy M. Cachola, Charles K. Djou, Gary H. Okino

Committee on Planning and Sustainability

Chair: Gary H. Okino

Vice Chair: Romy M. Cachola

Members: Todd K. Apo, Ann H. Kobayashi, Rod Tam

Committee on Transportation & Public Works

Chair: Nestor R. Garcia

Vice Chair: Charles K. Djou

Members: Todd K. Apo, Gary H. Okino, Rod Tam

Committee on Zoning

Chair: Rod Tam

Vice Chair: Todd K. Apo

Members: Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Nestor R. Garcia, Gary H. Okino

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In fiscal year 2007-08, the council considered the many issues and problems brought before it by the city administration, the public and relevant interests. The council approved measures that may be categorized into the following general areas: (1) supporting the community; (2) protecting the land; (3) maintaining and improving city government.

¹ Councilmembers not listed as committee members are nonvoting members of the committee pursuant to Council Communication 61, 2008.

I. SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

A. PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC ORDER AND CRIME

The council approved a proposed amendment to the city charter which, if **approved** by voters at the 2008 general election, would provide the prosecuting attorney with the necessary authority to recommend programs and educate the public on crime, crime prevention and the criminal justice system (Res. 07-223, CDI). Such authority was put into question by the Hawaii Supreme Court after the prosecuting attorney urged voters to approve a 2002 amendment to the state constitution regarding the direct filing of lower level felony cases for trial. The council also prohibited aggressive panhandling near automated teller machines and check cashing facilities (Ord. 08-2).

The council continued to approve substantial financial support for crime fighting and neighborhood safety. Resolution 07-1 99 approved \$738,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for various law enforcement activities. Resolutions 07-268 and 07-269 approved a total of \$54,000 in funds from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Weed and Seed Program. Finally, the council approved the addition of three positions in the executive operating budget to bolster police recruitment and two positions for new park patrols (Ord. 08-12).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The council advanced the long-awaited Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road by approving the condemnation of needed land parcels (Res. 08-77). Also approved was an agreement and funding from Sprint/Nextel to reband the city's 800 mHz radio channels for public safety agencies (Res. 07-195 and 07-289). An appropriation of \$6.7 million was also included in the executive capital budget for the Alapai Transportation Management Center (Ord. 08-13). That facility would house not only city and state transportation management staff but also federal emergency response agencies.

FLOOD CONTROL

To better prepare for floods and ameliorate such risk to residents and property, the council urged the formation of a multi-jurisdictional task force to identify and address issues related to the maintenance of streams, channels, ditches and other flood control facilities (Res. 07-386). It also authorized an agreement and the receipt of \$46,000 from the U.S. Geologic Survey for the collection of basic hydrologic data on Oahu (Res. 07-320). Funding of \$200,000 was approved in the executive capital budget for a pilot project to develop a windward stream and drainage property owner database (Ord. 08-13). Agreements and funding for improvements to specific flood control areas were also approved (Res. 07-217 for the Manoa Watershed; Res. 07-253 for Maunawili Stream; Res. 08-1 28 for Kuliouou Stream).

FIRE PROTECTION

After an August 2007 brushfire burned over 5,000 acres in the Waialua area of the North Shore, the council urged the city administration to strengthen fire protection services there (Res. 07-255), requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a damage survey and relieve hazards from the wildfire (Res. 07-264, CDI), and established a fire prevention task force to provide recommendations for fire prevention in areas where undeveloped lands abut communities (Res. 07-307, CDI).

LIQUOR REGULATION

The council approved new rules to cover liquor sales at condominium hotels and made other liquor rule changes (Res. 08-78). Agreements were also continued with the University of Hawaii's Cancer Research Center for decoy "sting" operations used to enforce liquor laws prohibiting the serving of minors (Res. 07-291 and 07-381).

B. TRANSPORTATION TRANSIT AND FERRY

The Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project was provided a major advance in resources by the council's approval of \$265.1 million in the executive capital budget to plan, design and construct the transit system (Ord. 08-13). A panel was formed to select which technology would be used for the transit system (Res. 07-376, CDI, FDI). Public Infrastructure Maps showing the route and transit stations along the council's Locally Preferred Alternative for the fixed guideway were also adopted (Res. 08-97, CDI). Including the project on these maps was necessary for future city funding. The council also supported the ongoing ferry demonstration project that travels between Kalaeloa and downtown. A \$2 million request by the city administration to the Federal Transit Administration was approved to extend the ferry project for an additional six months (Res. 07-31 9).

BUS SYSTEM

The council adopted an ordinance permitting the suspension of fares for the bus, ferry or handivan for up to one fiscal year in order to demonstrate the impact on traffic congestion (Ord. 08-4). Additional federal funds for the bus and handivan were also approved (Res. 07-1 44: \$21 million for bus preventive maintenance, \$160,000 for onboard bus security cameras; Res. 07-200: \$5.7 million for bus and handivan vehicles). This was supplemented by \$31.1 million in the executive capital budget for bus and handivan vehicles, \$15.2 million to purchase the land for the Halawa bus maintenance facility, \$5 million for the Alapai Transit Center, \$5 million for the Wahiawa Transit Center and \$4.2 million for the Middle Street Intermodal Transit Center (Ord. 08-13).

BICYCLING AND WALKING

Consistent with a 2006 amendment to the city charter to make Honolulu a pedestrian-and bicycle-friendly city, the council requested amendments to the subdivision code to implement wider street widths to accommodate bicycle lanes (Res. 07-165, CDI). It also urged the Department of Transportation Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation to install additional bicycle racks in city parks (Res. 07-250). In the executive capital budget, \$1 million was approved for bikeway improvements in various locations (Ord. 08-13). Responding to an alarming increase in pedestrian fatalities, the council approved an agreement with the State Department of Transportation to have pedestrian safety programs (Res. 07-309).

ROADWAYS AND PARKING

To help alleviate traffic congestion during peak traffic hours, the council requested government leadership in restructuring the work commute via flexible work schedules. Resolution 07-213 was directed at the state and city governments, while Resolution 07-214 was directed at the University of Hawaii. The council also requested the Department of Transportation Services to begin the process of preparing a central Oahu multi-modal transportation master plan (Res. 07-339, CDI) and to update the Ewa highway master plan to facilitate the assessment and collection of highway impact fees (Resolution 07-338, CDI). The Ewa highway master plan update and transit projects were added to the federal Overall Work Program to qualify the projects for federal funding (Res. 08-98). Rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing roadways were strongly supported by over \$80 million of funding in the executive capital budget (Ord. 08-13). Finally, the council reminded all city agencies and other entities represented on the mayor's Government & Public Utilities Task Force to return any road to its original design specifications whenever roads were excavated or trenched (Res. 07-270, CDI).

Parking issues also drew council action. The Department of Budget and Fiscal Services was asked to update the city's earlier plan to install multi-space parking meters (Res. 07-347), and the city administration was asked to study the feasibility of instituting a "Smart Boot" program in the city (Res. 08-112, CDI). The so-called "smart boot" is a large metal clamp locked to a wheel of a motor vehicle to immobilize it and is used by cities primarily to force people to pay their accumulated unpaid parking tickets.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

A variety of transportation projects were made eligible for federal funding by adding them to the Fiscal Years 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (Res. 07-206, Res. 08-99 CDI). Among the projects added were the reconstruction of Kapiolani Boulevard, purchase of bus and handivan vehicles, and development of transit centers at Middle Street, Windward and of a maintenance facility at West Oahu.

In view of the impact of rapidly escalating fuel prices on the taxi industry, the council passed Ordinance 08-9 to authorize addition of a fuel surcharge to taxi fares.

C. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

When the mayor announced the sale of the city's affordable housing project inventory two years ago, residents of those projects feared for the future of their homes. The council helped to allay those fears by adopting a policy setting qualifications for prospective developers/owners/managers of the city's affordable housing projects that, among other things, expressed the council's intent that all of those housing units remain affordable in perpetuity (Res. 08-1 08).

The council also continued the provision of resources for affordable housing and supportive services, approving the City and County of Honolulu's Fourteenth (14th) Year Action Plan for an additional \$14.7 million of Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership, Emergency Shelter Grant and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program Funds (Res. 08-36, CDI, FDI). The council also approved agreements which historically represented between \$3.7 million and \$5.2 million in grant funds under the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2007 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs (Res. 07-222), and appropriated from the newly created affordable housing fund \$3.5 million, plus \$3.8 million in general obligation bonds, to renovate the city's Kulana Nani housing project (Ord. 08-13). An additional \$2 million was appropriated from the affordable housing fund for a nonprofit to develop affordable housing at a River Street site (Ord. 08-13).

Resolution 07-363 authorized the lease of city owned properties for six special needs housing projects, providing for such needs as shelters for abused spouses and their children, transitional housing for the homeless and group homes for the elderly.

The city has long used exemptions from zoning and other development regulations provided in state statutes to facilitate the construction of affordable housing projects. Resolution 08-70, CDI, authorized such exemptions for the Hale Wai Vista affordable rental housing project in Waianae. However, due to significant shifts in Oahu's housing market, the council was also asked to amend exemptions previously granted to certain housing projects. By Resolution 08-4, CDI, the council approved marketing units at the Mokuola Vista project in Waipahu as affordable rentals instead of as affordable for-sale units, although the project was permitted to later resume marketing the units for affordable for-sale as long as no renters were displaced. By Resolution 08-30, CDI, FDI, the council similarly approved the marketing of units at the Plantation Town Apartments Project at Waipio and Waikele as affordable rentals instead of as affordable for-sale units.

D. PARKS AND OTHER RECREATION

The council provided resources for facilities that serve the community's need for recreation. In the executive capital budget, \$8.5 million was approved for improvements to Ewa Mahiko District Park (Ord. 08-13). The Honolulu Zoo received \$6.9 million for construction of the Asian Tropical Forest Elephant Facility, which was needed to comply with the earlier federal permit to import the elephants. The council asked the city administration to identify city properties that were suitable for development into additional community gardens (Res.07-189), and to facilitate the development of a municipal bowling alley as private alleys continued to close (Res. 07-190, CDI).

Other improvements to recreational facilities included \$1 million in the executive capital budget (Ord. 08-13) and \$500,000 in the executive operating budget (Ord. 08-12) for the Leeward Coast community benefit package. An agreement was approved with the Hawaii State Public Library System, enabling the city to construct an access way and a 21-stall parking lot on city- and state-owned land at Kaneohe Civic Center Neighborhood Park (Res. 07-170). Agreements were also approved with the State Department of Education to conduct after-school recreational activities (Res. 07-286 and 08-136, FDI).

E. AT-RISK YOUTH

The council supported the city's partnership with various state and federal agencies to ensure Oahu's at-risk youth received appropriate services. The council approved various agreements with the State Department of Human Services to fund community-based services for at-risk youth (Res. 07-303: positive youth development services; Res. 07-304: youth gang prevention services; Res. 07-305: truancy prevention services). An agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor under the Youthbuild program was approved (Res. 07-216). Youthbuild program participants were then tapped to help implement community service projects and renovate vacant housing units (Res. 07-331).

F. EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Agreements were approved with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to accept and expend nearly \$400,000 in National Emergency Grant funds for persons affected by the 2006 closure of Del Monte Fresh Produce in Kunia (Res. 07-169), and with the State Department of Human Services for \$172,000 to provide pre-employment development services for persons referred by the State Vocational Rehabilitation & Services for the Blind Division (Res. 07-171).

G. ECONOMY

The council approved the designation of portions of Waimanalo as an enterprise zone (Res. 07-325). Eligible businesses within the zone who, among other things, meet minimum employment levels will receive certain tax benefits and waiver of permit fees. Funding was requested from the Hawaii Tourism Authority for the Haleiwa Main Street public safety improvement program (Res. 07-256). The council also urged the mayor to establish and designate an agricultural development officer position to assist and promote agriculture on Oahu (Res. 07-360, CDI).

H. OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The council approved a four-year area plan on aging for federal fundings and related agreements (Res. 07-235). An agreement among the city, the National Association of Counties and CaremarkPCS was approved to allow Oahu residents to get a free prescription drug discount card (Res. 07-262, CDI). The council asked the Department of Planning and Permitting to find ways to enable residents to install wheelchair ramps for their homes (Res. 07-152). An agreement with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations representing \$700,000 in federal funds was approved for a demonstration project wherein spouses of persons in the military could set up career advancement accounts to help pay for education and training expenses (Res. 07-294). To facilitate the removal or retrieval of shopping carts that have been taken from stores and abandoned on public or private property, the council asked the city administration to prepare proposed legislation addressing the problem (Res. 07-340, CDI). Finally, an ordinance was approved requiring the city's animal control contractor to spay or neuter a cat or dog before the animal's adoption (Ord. 07-33).

II. PROTECTING THE LAND

A. REGULATING LAND USES

The council acted to bring more certainty to the process of amending land use plans and laws. Ordinance 08-8 establishes reasonable deadlines for the Department of Planning and Permitting to process council proposals to amend the general plan, development plans, zoning ordinances, or the subdivision ordinance. That ordinance also clarifies the Director of Planning and Permitting's responsibilities in assisting the council in preparing such proposals. The council also approved a revised urban design plan for the city of Kapolei (Res. 07-372, CDI).

The council proposed amendments to the land use ordinance with respect to certain specific land uses. Regarding meeting facilities, which includes churches, Resolution 07-313 proposed allowing temporary, portable signs announcing events at a facility, and allowing permanent directory signs and wall signs. Resolution 07-292, CDI asked for a study to determine if more meeting facilities could be located in industrial districts, and that an amendment to the land use ordinance be processed to lift existing restrictions on locating such facilities in industrial districts.

The council also proposed an amendment to the land use ordinance to permit temporary signs advertising sports registration events (Res. 07-329), and established a policy that hula halau be deemed to meet the definition of "Amusement and Recreation Facilities, Indoor" as defined in the land use ordinance (Res. 08-46) to increase available locations.

B. SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

The management of solid waste generated by Oahu residents and businesses was the subject of much council effort. The council encouraged the Director of the Department of Environmental Services to incorporate off-island shipment of solid waste as an approved, but limited, element in the city's solid waste disposal system (Res. 07-151, CDI). After a five-year draft plan was submitted contrary to current ordinance, the council directed the Corporation Counsel to enforce the requirement that the Department of Environmental Services to submit a 25-year integrated solid waste management plan to the council (Res. 07-343).

The recycling of appropriate material was an important emphasis of the council to reduce Oahu's solid waste stream. To enable the city's curbside recycling pilot project to proceed, Ordinance 07-45 was approved which authorizes a charge of \$30 per quarter for 2nd day refuse collection and a charge of \$75 for intentional damage to a refuse or recycling cart. The council expressed its support of the city's comprehensive curbside recycling pilot program, as well as the efforts by the Department of Environmental Services to limit refuse pickup when recycling exists as a viable option (Res. 07-207). The department was asked to initiate a recycling education program prior to the implementation of an island-wide curbside recycling program (Res. 07-395). Resolution 08-17, CDI, urged that recycling receptacles be placed at city parks and facilities. Resolution 07-212 approved an agreement with the State Department of Health to enable the city to operate a buy-back program for glass recycling. Through the agreement, the city would receive \$833,000 for the program.

The council provided \$40 million in the executive capital budget for the expansion or replacement of H-power and \$44 million to purchase H-power now that its lease of the facility from a private owner is nearing an end (Ord. 08-13). Also, \$7 million in the executive operating budget was approved to begin the shipment of solid waste to offshore disposal sites and \$8 million to expand the curbside recycling program (Ord. 08-12).

C. WASTEWATER

Continuing an expensive, long-term, but necessary program of needed upgrades to the city's wastewater system, the council approved a total of \$222.9 million in wastewater capital projects (Ord. 08-13). The council expressed its commitment that all city wastewater treatment plants comply with all applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements (Res. 07-132, CDI). To provide needed sewer service for the unsewered areas of the North Shore, the council approved an agreement with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to jointly fund a study to evaluate alternative ways of collecting, treating, and reusing wastewater (Res. 08-16). It approved other agreements with the University of Hawaii to continue assessing the impact of ocean sewer outfalls on the marine environment off Oahu (Res. 07-184 and 07-288).

D. ENVIRONMENT

Following ratification by the voters of a 2006 charter amendment establishing a new Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund, the council established a commission to set priorities for expenditures from that fund (Res. 07-355, CDI). It then approved spending \$4 million from that fund in the executive capital budget to acquire appropriate lands (Ord. 08-13). It also supported the protection of appropriate preservation and conservation lands on Oahu as a policy of the city, and urged the administration to support the acquisition and protection of a natural preserve in Honouliuli (Res. 08-23, CDI). Agreements with state and federal agencies were approved to assess the health of Palolo Stream (Res. 08-94) and sediment discharges in the Manoa Valley Watershed and Honouliuli Stream (Res. 07-392). An agreement with the State Department of Health was approved to jointly produce a training video on how to reduce polluted runoff at construction sites (Res. 07-260).

E. HANAUMA BAY NATURE PRESERVE

A 2007 city audit of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve Fund found that the city relied on an outdated and obsolete 1992 master plan for the development and use of Hanauma Bay. The council asked the administration to update the master plan (Res. 07-228). It also approved the continuation of agreements with the University of Hawaii to develop and manage an education and interpretative program for Hanauma Bay (Res. 07-215, FDI; 07-231, CDI; 08-137).

F. ENERGY AND WATER

To encourage the use of photovoltaic electrical power systems, the council exempted the installation of those systems from the payment of plan review and building permit fees (Ord. 08-1). It also encouraged the city administration to participate in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Challenge program to reduce energy consumption in public and private sector buildings (Res. 07-295). It established a city policy to reduce potable water consumption at city facilities (Res. 07-358, CDI). Finally, it approved \$11.4 million in the executive capital budget for various energy conservation improvements to city facilities (Ord. 08-13) and \$305,000 in the executive operating budget to initiate a Honolulu Sustainability Center Demonstration Project at Makiki District Park Library (Ord. 08-12). The project would feature the use of green roof and solar power technologies.

III. MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING CITY OPERATIONS

A. THE CITY BUDGET

Despite the continuing escalation in costs borne by the city to provide basic services, the council was able to provide homeowners with a \$100 real property tax credit to be applied against their tax bills (Ord. 08-10) and to keep most tax rates at existing levels (Res. 08-58). The city budget for fiscal year 2009 was finalized and approved (Ord. 08-II: legislative budget \$13,611,418; Ord. 08-12: executive operating budget \$1,807,933,842; Ord. 08-13: executive capital budget \$954,825,679). Among other things, the city budget included \$91.9 million to help defray the expected future high cost of employee retirement benefits, \$13.4 million to help pay for and manage escalating energy costs, and a deposit of \$7.5 million to bolster a reserve fund for city operations (Ord. 08-12).

The council also approved the issuance of bonds to finance the capital projects of the city and refinance outstanding debt: general obligation bonds (Res. 07-290: \$1,070,505,000) and wastewater system revenue bonds (Res. 07-202, CDI:

\$530,695,000; 07-203, CDI: \$202,225,000; 08-71, CD1: \$226,255,000).

B. PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM

The council revised the penalty for delinquent real property taxes to encourage more timely repayments (Ord. 07-036). The council also provided that the taxpayer's deposit required to appeal one's property tax assessment be returned to the taxpayer if any part of the appeal is sustained (Ord. 08-5).

C. ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

The council authorized the ethics commission to impose civil fines on elected officials and established an ethics board of appeals (Ord. 07-43). Ordinance 08-18 requires all city advertisements to disclose that the ad was paid for by city taxpayers. Ordinance 08-7 requires additional line-item details on the mayor's proposed annual budget be submitted to the council. The council also approved a proposed amendment to the charter that would have prohibited a new city appointee from being involved in any city matter that the person worked on while in a prior private employment that might impair the person's independence (Res. 07-391, CD2). However, the proposal was vetoed by the mayor.

D. OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Certain major capital projects must be added to a public infrastructure map before they can be funded in the city budget. The council revised the criteria for determining which projects were required to be on those maps, clarified the Department of Planning and Permitting's role in reviewing council proposed revisions to the maps (Ord. 07-37) and adopted revisions to the maps to conform to the new criteria (Res. 07-209, CDI).

The council streamlined city operations by providing for automatic council approval for intergovernmental agreements that will not be executed until approved, do not require the expenditure of city funds, and for which the city has not already accepted funds, as long as no councilmember objects to such approval (Ord. 07-40).

To help end long-standing delays in the city's issuance of building permits, the council asked the Department of Planning and Permitting to report on the feasibility of implementing the recommendations contained in the department's consultant study on the building permit process (Res. 07-342, CDI).

The council asked the city administration to implement a flexible spending plan for city employees (Res. 07-359, CDI). Such plans are used by governmental and private employers to enable an employee to set aside a portion of his or her pre-tax earnings to pay for qualified expenses, which are most commonly medical expenses but can be for dependent care or other expenses.